

IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application. An identifier indicating the status of each claim is provided.

Listing of Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A material processing system for processing material including a watermark, the material having been watermarked by ~~embedding-encrypting~~ a watermark code word ~~into the material by~~ and combining the encrypted watermark code word with predetermined components of the material, the system comprising:

a remover for automatically removing the watermark independently of a user;

a processor for processing the material from which the watermark has been removed;

an inserter for automatically inserting ~~a~~the watermark into the processed material independently of the user; and

a database processor linked to the remover, the database processor being operable to provide the remover with data enabling the removal of the watermark from the material to be processed, the enabling data indicating the predetermined components of the material with which the watermark code word has been combined, and including an encryption key for decrypting after removal and encrypting for inserting the watermark code word in the material.

2. (Original) A system according to claim 1, wherein the processor has a user interface for controlling the processes performed thereby.

3. – 4. (Canceled)

5. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 1, wherein said database processor is linked to the inserter, the database processor containing data enabling insertion of the watermark into the processed material.

6. (Canceled)

7. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 1, wherein the inserter and the remover are linked to the database processor by a communications link.

8. (Original) A system according to claim 7, wherein the communications link includes the internet.

9. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 1 arranged to check the authenticity of the said material including the reversible watermark.

10. (Original) A system according to claim 9, arranged to disable the said processor if the material fails the authenticity check.

11. (Currently Amended) A method of automatically processing material including a watermark independently of the user, the material having been watermarked by

~~embedding~~ ~~encrypting~~ a watermark code word ~~into the material by and~~ combining the watermark code word with predetermined components of the material, comprising the steps of:

retrieving from a database, data enabling the removal of the watermark included in the material to be processed, the enabling data providing the predetermined components of the material with which the watermark code word has been combined and including an encryption key;

removing automatically the encrypted watermark using the enabling data independently of the user from the predetermined components of the material provided by the enabling data;

decrypting the encrypted code word using the encryption key provided by the enabling data;

processing the material from which the watermark has been removed using a processor; ~~and~~

encrypting the watermark code word using the encryption key; and
inserting a ~~the~~ watermark automatically into the processed material independently of the user.

12. (Canceled)

13. (Original) A method according to claim 12, wherein the removal and insertion are hidden from the user.

14. (Canceled)

15. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 11, wherein the retrieving includes retrieving from a the database the data enabling the insertion of a watermark into the processed material.

16. (Canceled)

17. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 11, wherein the enabling data is retrieved via a communications link.

18. (Original) A method according to claim 17, wherein the communications link includes the internet.

19. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 11, comprising the steps of checking the authenticity of the said material including the reversible watermark.

20. (Original) A method according to claim 19, comprising the steps of disabling the processing of the material if the material fails the authenticity check.

21. (Currently Amended) A method of automatically removing data embedded in material independently of a user comprising the steps of:

receiving material in which data is embedded, the data having been embedded in the material by encrypting the data using an encryption key and combining the encrypted data with predetermined components of the material;

accessing an information store storing information enabling the data to be removed; and

removing the said data using the enabling data accessed from the store,

wherein the enabling data indicates the predetermined components of the material with which the data has been combined and includes an encryption key for decrypting the encrypted code word.

22. (Currently Amended) A method comprising the steps of:

embedding data in material, the data being embedded in the material by encrypting the data and combining the encrypted data with predetermined components of the material; and

storing, in an information store, information for enabling the data to be removed from the material, the information for enabling the data to be removed including an indication of the predetermined components of the material with which the data has been combined, and the information including the encryption key for decrypting the data.

23. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for automatically removing data embedded in material independently of a user comprising:

an input for receiving material in which data is embedded, the data having been embedded in the material by encrypting the data using an encryption key and combining the data with predetermined components of the material;

an information store for storing information enabling the data to be removed; and

a remover arranged to remove the said data using the enabling data accessed from the store,

wherein the enabling data indicates the predetermined components of the material with which the encrypted data has been combined and includes an encryption key for decrypting the encrypted code word.

24. (Currently Amended) An apparatus comprising:

an embedder for embedding data in material, the data being embedded in the material by encrypting the data using an encryption key and combining the data with predetermined components of the material;

a store for storing information for enabling the data to be removed from the material, the information for enabling the data to be removed including an indication of the predetermined components of the material with which the data has been combined and the information including the encryption key for decrypting the data.

25. (Original) Apparatus according to claim 23 further comprising a generator for generating the enabling information.

26. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 24, wherein the material is one or more of video material, audio material and data material.

27. (Previously Presented) A computer program product arranged to carry out the method of claim 11 when run on a programmable digital signal processor.

28. (Original) A storage medium storing a computer program product according to claim 27.

29. – 30. (Canceled)

31. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 5, wherein the said enabling data includes an encryption key.

32. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 5, wherein the inserter and the remover are linked to the database processor by a communications link.

33. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 8, wherein the inserter and the remover are linked to the database processor by a communications link.

34. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 15, wherein the said enabling data includes an encryption key.

35. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 15, wherein the enabling data is retrieved via a communications link.

36. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 35, wherein the communications link includes the internet.

37. (Previously Presented) Apparatus according to claim 24, wherein the material is one or more of video material, audio material and data material.

38. (Previously Presented) Method according to claim 21, wherein the material is one or more of video material, audio material and data material.

39. (Previously Presented) Method according to claim 22, wherein the material is one or more of video material, audio material and data material.

40. (Currently Amended) A computer program product providing computer executable instructions which, when loaded onto a computer causes the computer to perform a method of processing material including a watermark, the material having been watermarked by ~~embedding~~ encrypting a watermark code word ~~into the material by and~~ combining the encrypted watermark code word with predetermined components of the material, the computer program comprising program code for:

retrieving, from a database, data enabling the removal of the encrypted watermark included in the material to be processed, the enabling data providing the predetermined components of the material with which the encrypted watermark code word has been combined;

removing automatically the encrypted watermark code word using the enabling data independently of a user;

processing the material from which the encrypted watermark code word has been removed using a processor; and

inserting ~~a~~automatically the encrypted watermark code word into the processed material independently of the user wherein the enabling data includes an encryption key for decrypting after removal and encrypting when inserting the watermark code word in the material.

41. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 10, wherein the watermark includes an authorization code, the authenticity check comprising confirming the authenticity of the authorization code.

42. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 19, wherein the watermark includes an authorization code, the authenticity check comprising confirming the authenticity of the authorization code.

43. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 1, wherein the material is one or more of video material, audio material and data material.

44. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 11, wherein the material is one or more of video material, audio material and data material.